

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01522 231527Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13 SSM-03 /078 W
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R 231448Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1522

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KU, PLO, PFOR
SUBJECT: KUWAITI AND ARAB FUND SUPPORT FOR PLO

1. KUWAIT DAILY AL SIYASAH OF MARCH 22 GIVES SOME FIGURES ON AID TO PLO BY KUWAIT GOVERNMENT AND BY THE ARAB FUND (HEADQUARTERS IN KUWAIT) WHICH WE HAD NOT SEEN BEFORE. NEWS REPORT, REPORTEDLY BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS IN CAIRO AND DRAWN FROM "THE ELEVENTH FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FUND," ASSERTS THAT:

- A. IN 1975, KUWAIT PAID "ANNUALLY" (SIC) THE AMOUNT OF KUWAITI DINARS 8,510,630 TO THE PLO AND HAS "MET ITS COMMITMENTS IN FULL TO THE PLO." (KD 1 EQUALS DOLS 3.50.)
 - B. TOTAL ARAB AID TO THE PLO IN 1975 WAS THE EQUIVALENT OF 29 MILLION KUWAITI DINARS.
 - C. KUWAIT ALSO HAS PAID EQUIVALENT OF \$3 MILLION TO PLO FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON.
 - D. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE ARAB FUND WAS "DISCLOSED" WHICH MAKES AVAILABLE CREDIT FACILITIES TO DEVELOP THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01522 231527Z

PALESTINIAN HOMELAND." THE ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FUND DOES NOT EXPLAIN THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE ARAB FUND WILL TRANSMIT FUNDS INTO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY, BUT ONE OF THE PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A WEST BANK "PALESTINIAN POPULAR UNIVERSITY."

2. ARAB FUND OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT ARAB FUND

WAS INVOLVED WITH PLO IN A PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY OF SETTING UP AN "OPEN UNIVERSITY" FOR PALESTINIANS, MODELED ALONG LINES OF "OPEN UNIVERSITIES" IN UK. FUND OFFICIAL, WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT, SAID THAT "OPEN UNIVERSITY" WOULD INVOLVE EDUCATION BY CORRESPONDENCE AND TV. NO FIXED LOCATION (SUCH AS WEST BANK MENTIONED IN AL-SIYASAH ARTICLE) HAD BEEN DETERMINED FOR UNIVERSITY, LOCATION BEING ONE OF THE THINGS COVERED IN FEASIBILITY STUDY. COMMENTING ON THIS PROJECT, KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDULLATIF-AL-HAMAD SAID THAT THE PROJECT OF THE ARAB FUND WAS "VERY VERY PRELIMINARY ONE,"

AND ONLY FOR EDUCATION. ARAB FUND OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THIS, THUS DENYING AL-SIYASSA STORY'S CLAIM OF ARAB FUND ASSISTANCE TO "DEVELOP THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND." ARAB FUND DIRECTOR SAEB JAROUDI EXPRESSED TOTAL SURPRISE WHEN AMBASSADOR MENTIONED NEWS STORY TO HIM AT SOCIAL AFFAIR AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ARAB FUND SUPPORT OF PLO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT01522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770100-0589
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770332/aaaabbbk.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3026316
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI AND ARAB FUND SUPPORT FOR PLO
TAGS: PFOR, KU, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/faa1aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009